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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN
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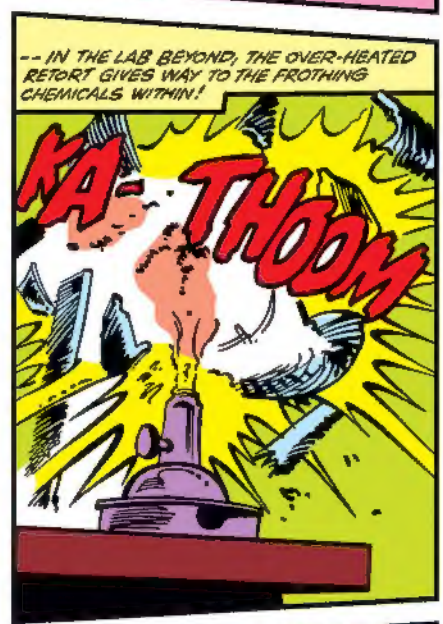
TM
HER NAME IS BELLADONNA-- AND SPIDER-MAN CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE SHE IS!
BYRNE/RUBINSTEIN

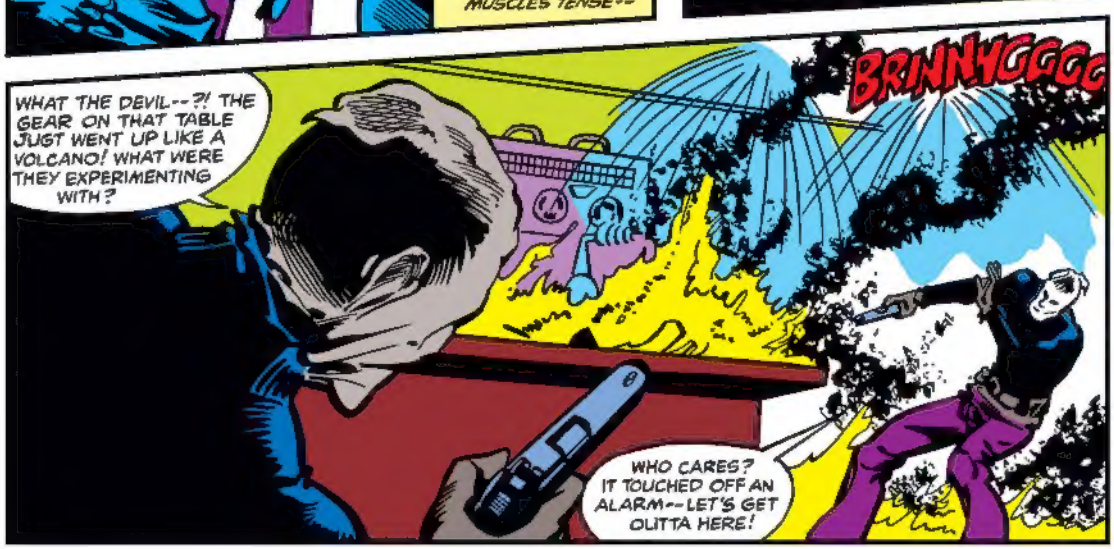
STOM LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!
ROGER STERN writer · MIKE ZECK penciller · STEVE MITCHELL inker · JOHN COSTANZA letterer · BOB SHAREN colorist · DENNIS O'NEIL editor · JIM SHOOTER editor-in-chief
WHEN YOU'RE A GRAD STUDENT WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH COLLEGE, YOU HAVE TO GRAB LAB TIME WHEN AND WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT.
SUCH IS THE CASE WITH STEVE HOPKINS AND PETER PARKER, WHO ARE SPENDING THIS PARTICULAR EVENING IN THE LABORATORIES OF MANHATTAN'S EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY--
--WORKING ON AN EXPERIMENT WHICH IS DUE FOR A MOST UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION!
WHOA! MY SPIDER-SENSE JUST WENT OFF LIKE A GEIGER COUNTER AT LOS ALAMOS! THAT MEANS SOME KIND OF DANGER IS NEAR--BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY THREATEN ME...
...HERE?
LAB 104A
WHAM
FREEZE! NOBODY MOVES, NOBODY GETS HURT!
PRETTY POISON
LF107

THAT'S IT... TURN AROUND NICE AND SLOW. NOW ALL WE WANT ARE CHEMICALS YOU'VE GOT STORED HERE. IF YOU DON'T GIVE US ANY TROUBLE, THEN EVERYONE STAYS HEALTHY...CAPESN?
THIS BROAD WE SURPRISED OUTSIDE CLAIMS TO BE THE DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SECRETARY. THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT KEYS TO THE STOCK ROOM--RIGHT, LADY?
HEY, WHATEVER YOU SAY, MAN.
Y-YES. I'LL OPEN IT. J-JUST DON'T SHOOT!
THESE GOONS HAVE US OVER A BARREL, ALL RIGHT...
...I DON'T DARE TRY TO STOP THEM HERE. ALL SECRET IDENTITY CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, STEVE AND DEBRA COULD BE SERIOUSLY HURT IF I MAKE ANY HASTY MOVES.
STILL, THERE SHOULD BE SOME WAY OF STOPPING THEM. I WONDER WHAT THEIR REACTION WOULD BE TO A CERTAIN RETORT OF CHEMICALS GETTING TOO HOT?
THAT'S IT, KEEP THOSE HANDS OUT WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM!
OOOH, THESE STUBBORN KEYS... THERE!
SUPPLY ROOM
KLIK
BUMP

ALL RIGHT, NOW I WANT YOU THREE IN THAT STOCK ROOM!
THEY'RE STEALING TWO DRUMS OF NEO-ATROPINE? THAT'S ALL?
OH, PETER! WHAT--?
KEEP IT COOL, DEB. JUST DO WHAT THE MAN SAYS.

GO ON, GET IN THERE! HEY, THIS ROOM HAS REAL THICK WALLS, DON'T IT? IF SOMETHIN' HAPPENED, NOBODY'D HEAR A THING!
OH, GREAT! THIS IDIOT IS TRIGGER-HAPPY! LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE... I'LL HAVE TO JUMP HIM AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!
BUT EVEN AS PETER'S MUSCLES TENSE--

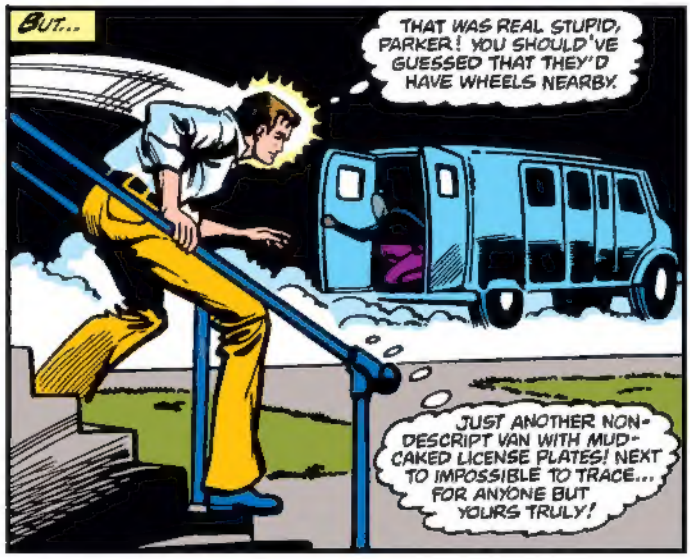

-- IN THE LAB BEYOND, THE OVER-HEATED RETORT GIVES WAY TO THE FROTHING CHEMICALS WITHIN!
KA-THOOM


WHAT THE DEVIL--?! THE GEAR ON THAT TABLE JUST WENT UP LIKE A VOLCANO! WHAT WERE THEY EXPERIMENTING WITH?
BRINNGGGGG
WHO CARES? IT TOUCHED OFF AN ALARM--LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

COME ON, STEVE--
SLAM
--WE HAVE TO BRACE THIS DOOR, BEFORE THEY THINK OF GRABBING HOSTAGES!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, HOSTAGES ARE THE LAST THINGS ON THE CROOKS' MINDS...
RUN FOR IT... BUT DON'T DROP THOSE CONTAINERS! IF WE BLOW IT NOW, THE BOSS'LL HAVE OUR HEADS!

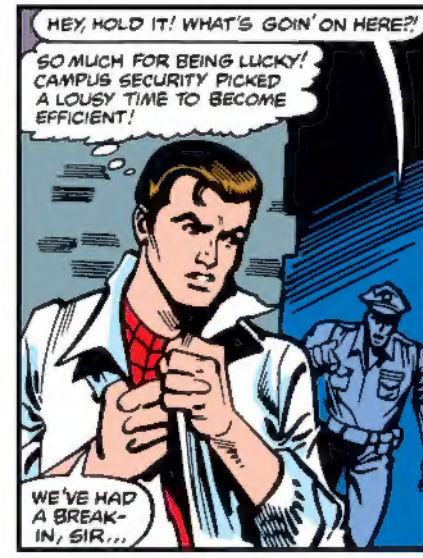
AND, SECONDS LATER...
THE SPRINKLERS HAVE PUT OUT MOST OF THE FIRE--I THINK I CAN HANDLE IT, PETE! YOU GO FIND CAMPUS SECURITY!
CHECK!
JUST AS SOON AS I TRACK DOWN OUR CHEM-LAB CUT-UPS... THEY COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR!


BUT...
THAT WAS REAL STUPID, PARKER! YOU SHOULD'VE GUESSED THAT THEY'D HAVE WHEELS NEARBY.
JUST ANOTHER NON-DESCRIPT VAN WITH MUD-CAKED LICENSE PLATES! NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE... FOR ANYONE BUT YOURS TRULY!

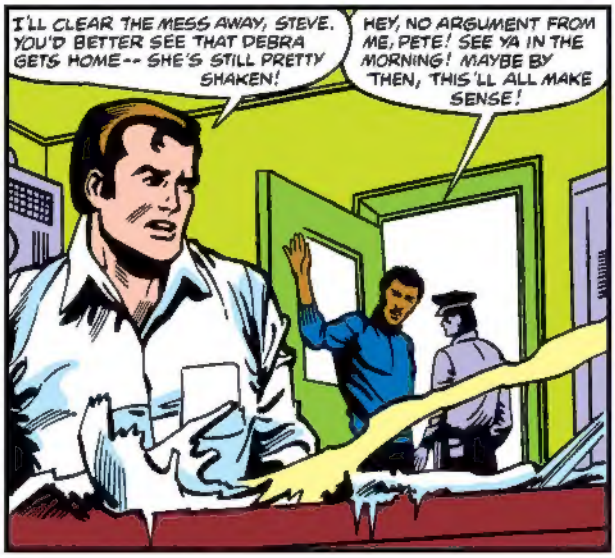
REACHING UNDER HIS BELT, THE YOUTHFUL TEACHING ASSISTANT PLUCKS OUT A TINY SPIDER-SHAPED OBJECT--
--AND LETS FLY...

...THE SELF-ADHERING TRACER LODGES UNNOTICED ON ONE OF THE FLEEING HOODS!

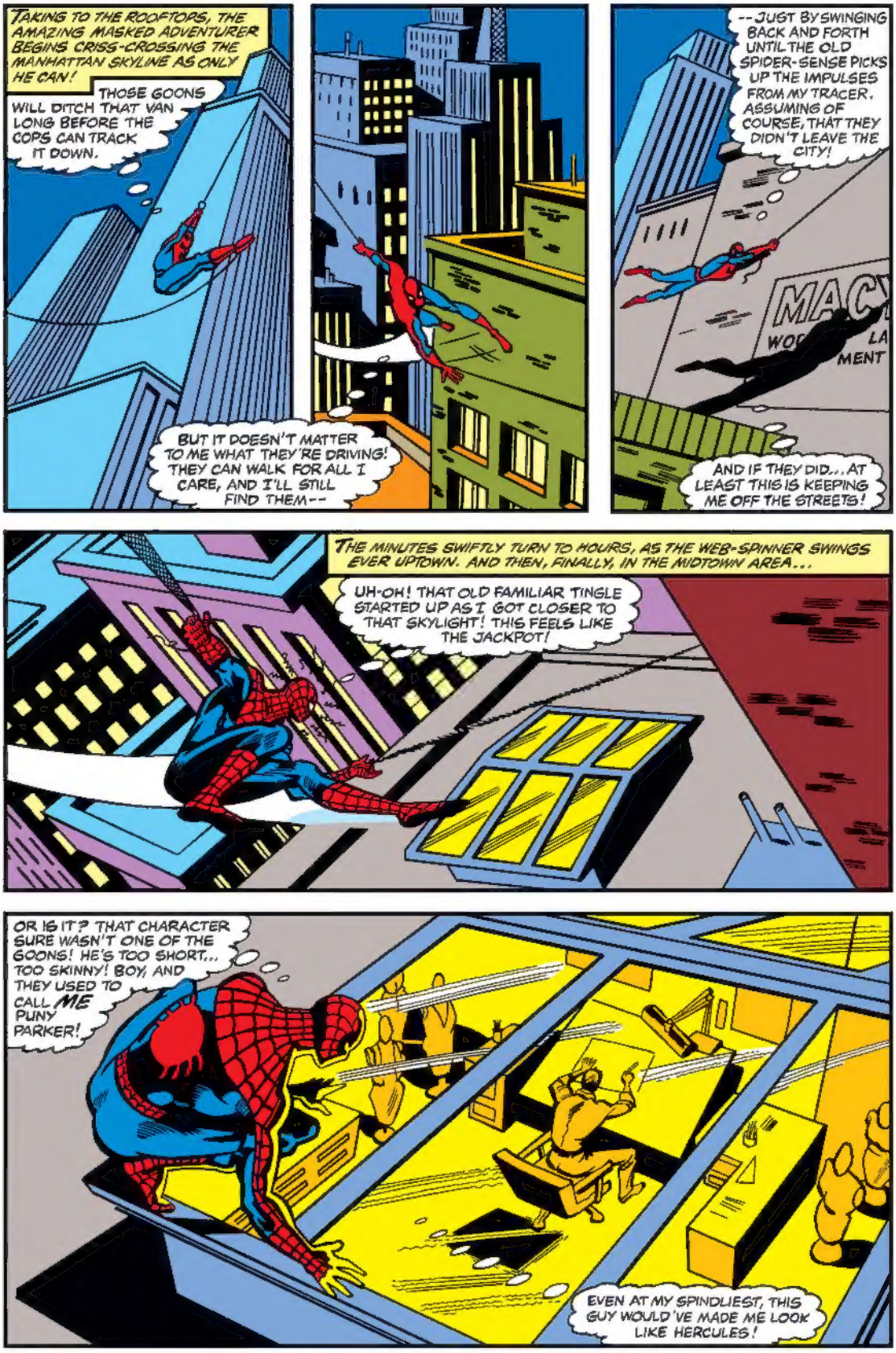
LITTLE SPIDER-TRACER, I LOVE YOU! NOW WHEREVER THAT MASKED MEATBALL GOES, I'LL BE ABLE TO HOME RIGHT IN ON HIM!
IF I'M LUCKY, BRIGHT BOY WON'T EVEN NOTICE THAT LITTLE ADDITION TO HIS SNEAKERS UNTIL SPIDER-MAN IS ON TOP OF HIM!


HEY, HOLD IT! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?!
SO MUCH FOR BEING LUCKY! CAMPUS SECURITY PICKED A LOUSY TIME TO BECOME EFFICIENT!
WE'VE HAD A BREAK-IN, SIR...

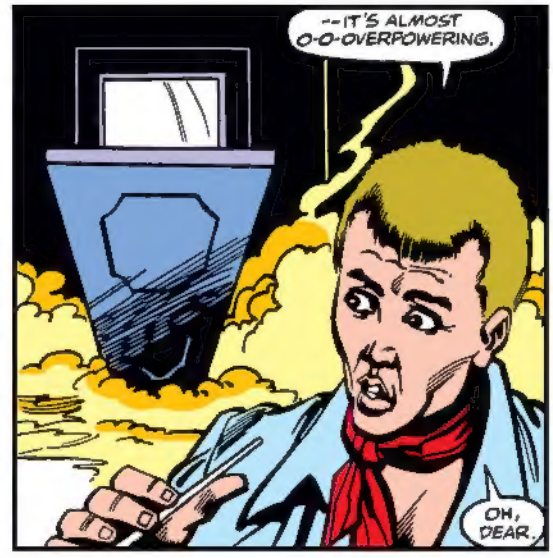
SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AFTER NEW YORK'S FINEST HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED...
...SO THAT'S ALL WE CAN TELL YOU, SERGEANT. IT BEATS ME WHY THEY'D STEAL NEO-ATROPINE! IT'S NOT THAT RARE OR EXPENSIVE!
WELL, SOMEBODY WANTED IT AWFULLY BAD, TO GO TO THIS MUCH TROUBLE!
NOTHING MORE TO GO ON AROUND HERE! I GUESS YOU KIDS CAN CLEAN UP AND GO HOME NOW. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF WE FIND ANYTHING!

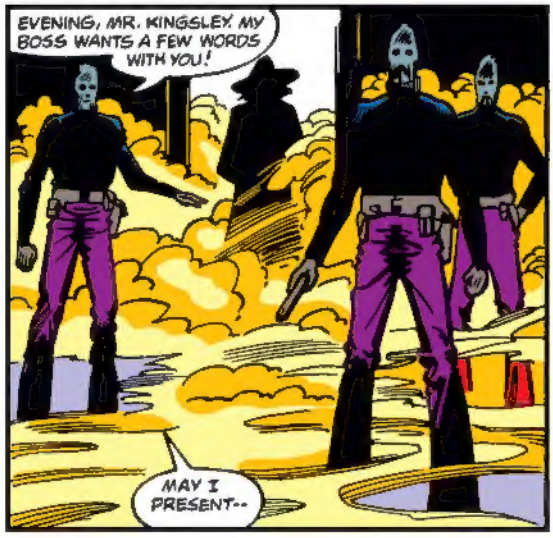

I'LL CLEAR THE MESS AWAY, STEVE. YOU'D BETTER SEE THAT DEBRA GETS HOME -- SHE'S STILL PRETTY SHAKEN!
HEY, NO ARGUMENT FROM ME, PETE! SEE YA IN THE MORNING! MAYBE BY THEN, THIS'LL ALL MAKE SENSE!

BUT, NO SOONER HAVE STEVE'S FOOTSTEPS DIED OUT DOWN THE HALL THAN...
THE CLEANING WILL WAIT... I WANT TO MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF THIS NOW!


TAKING TO THE ROOFTOPS, THE AMAZING MASKED ADVENTURER BEGINS CRISS-CROSSING THE MANHATTAN SKYLINE AS ONLY HE CAN!
THOSE GOONS WILL DITCH THAT VAN LONG BEFORE THE COPS CAN TRACK IT DOWN.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT THEY'RE DRIVING! THEY CAN WALK FOR ALL I CARE, AND I'LL STILL FIND THEM--
--JUST BY SWINGING BACK AND FORTH UNTIL THE OLD SPIDER-SENSE PICKS UP THE IMPULSES FROM MY TRACER. ASSUMING OF COURSE, THAT THEY DIDN'T LEAVE THE CITY!
AND IF THEY DID... AT LEAST THIS IS KEEPING ME OFF THE STREETS!
THE MINUTES SWIFTLY TURN TO HOURS, AS THE WEB-SPINNER SWINGS EVER UPTOWN. AND THEN, FINALLY, IN THE MIDTOWN AREA...
UH-OH! THAT OLD FAMILIAR TINGLE STARTED UP AS I GOT CLOSER TO THAT SKYLIGHT! THIS FEELS LIKE THE JACKPOT!
OR IS IT? THAT CHARACTER SURE WASN'T ONE OF THE GOONS! HE'S TOO SHORT... TOO SKINNY! BOY, AND THEY USED TO CALL ME PUNY PARKER!
EVEN AT MY SPINDLIEST, THIS GUY WOULD'VE MADE ME LOOK LIKE HERCULES!

BUT, EVEN AS SPIDER-MAN SKITTERS ABOUT OVERHEAD...
;SNF-SNF! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT FRAGRANCE?
IT'S NICE, BUT REALLY! IT'S SO STRONG--

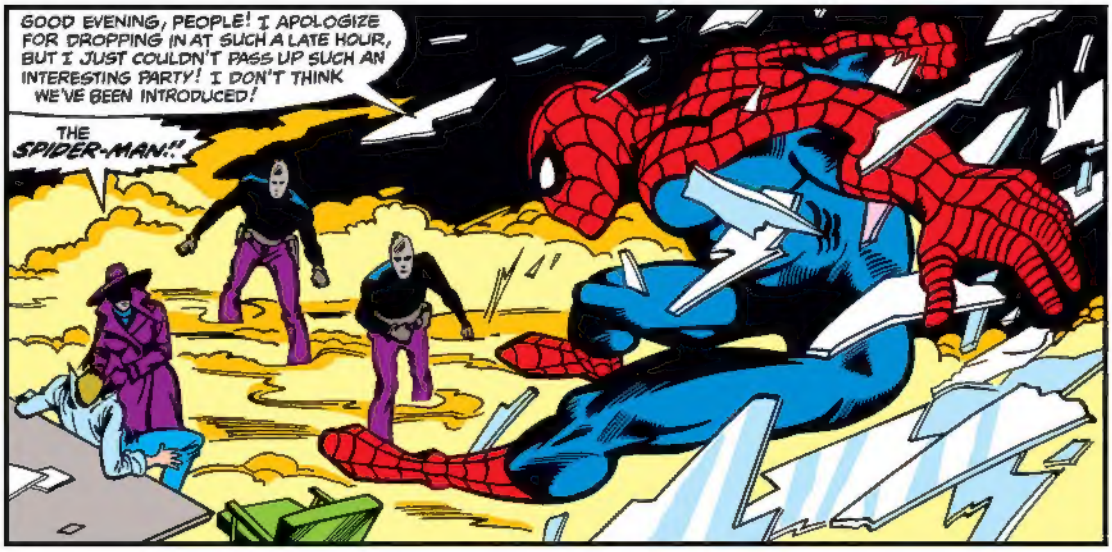

--IT'S ALMOST O-O-OVERPOWERING.
OH, DEAR.

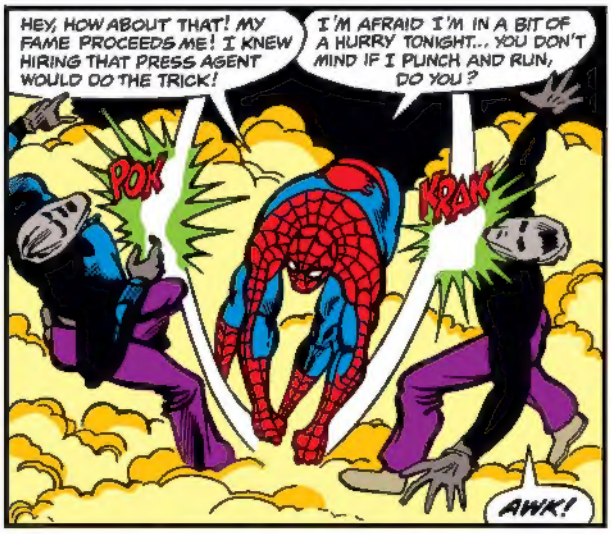

EVENING, MR. KINGSLEY. MY BOSS WANTS A FEW WORDS WITH YOU!
MAY I PRESENT--

--MADAM BELLADONNA!
RODERICK KINGSLEY, THIS IS THE HOUR OF YOUR DESCENT FROM THE HEIGHTS OF THE FASHION WORLD!

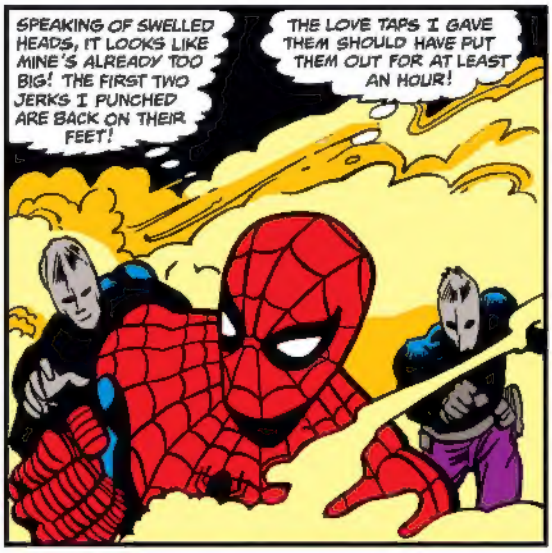
YOU'VE BASKED IN THE LIMELIGHT FOR TOO LONG! WHEN I GET THROUGH, ALL WILL KNOW HOW YOU'VE STOLEN YOUR IDEAS!
I-I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

YOU FLAMING SIMP! DO YOU HONESTLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A NO-TALENT LIKE YOU COULD HAVE COME UP WITH THESE FASHIONS?
THESE DESIGNS ARE MINE NOW!
WELL, WOBBLE MY WEBS AND CALL ME SHAKEY! COSTUMED CRIME HAS JUST HIT THE FASHION INDUSTRY!

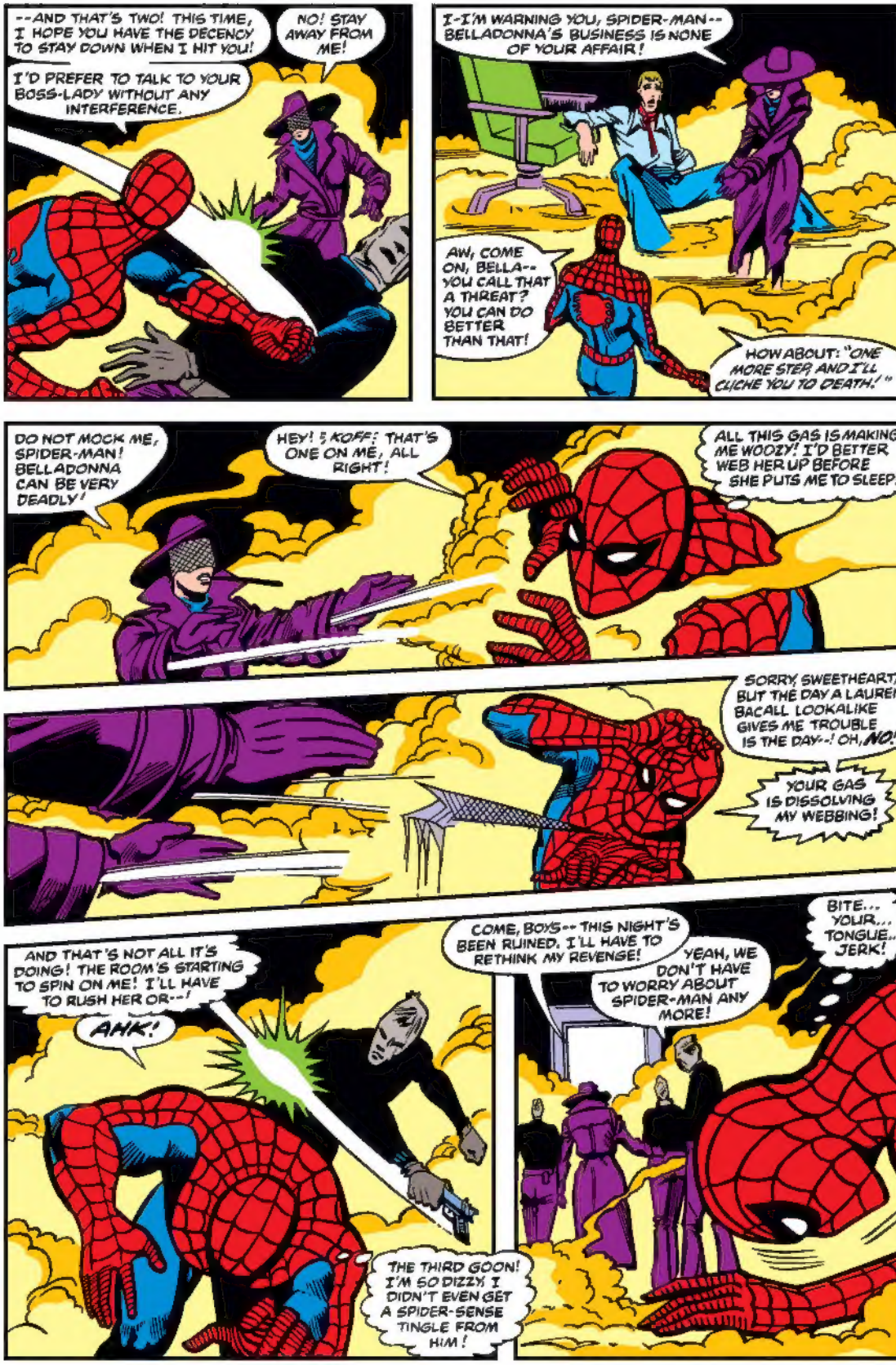

GOOD EVENING, PEOPLE! I APOLOGIZE FOR DROPPING IN AT SUCH A LATE HOUR, BUT I JUST COULDN'T PASS UP SUCH AN INTERESTING PARTY! I DON'T THINK WE'VE BEEN INTRODUCED!
THE SPIDER-MAN!!

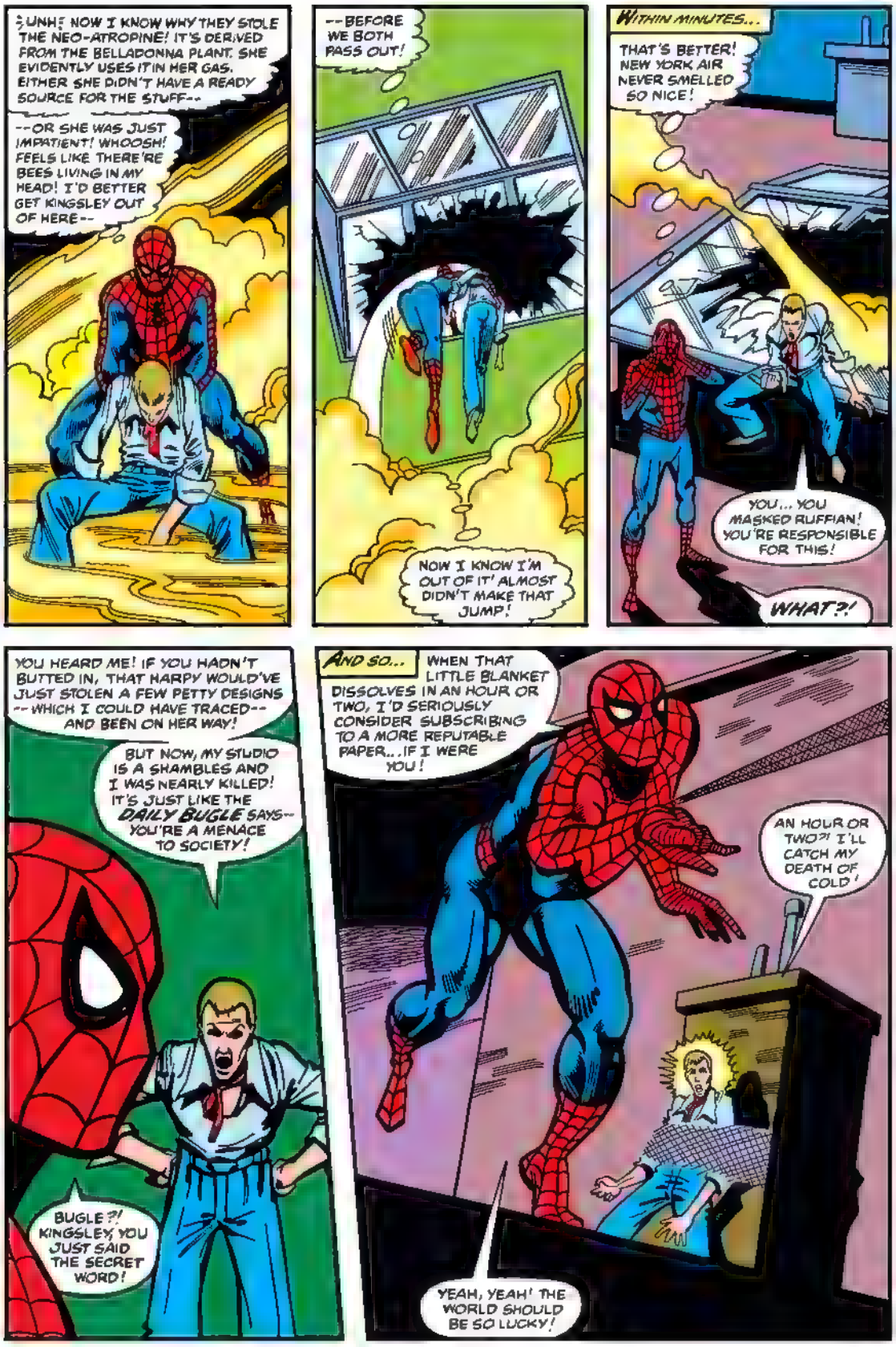

HEY, HOW ABOUT THAT! MY FAME PROCEEDS ME! I KNEW HIRING THAT PRESS AGENT WOULD DO THE TRICK!
I'M AFRAID I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY TONIGHT... YOU DON'T MIND IF I PUNCH AND RUN, DO YOU?
POK
KRAK
AWK!

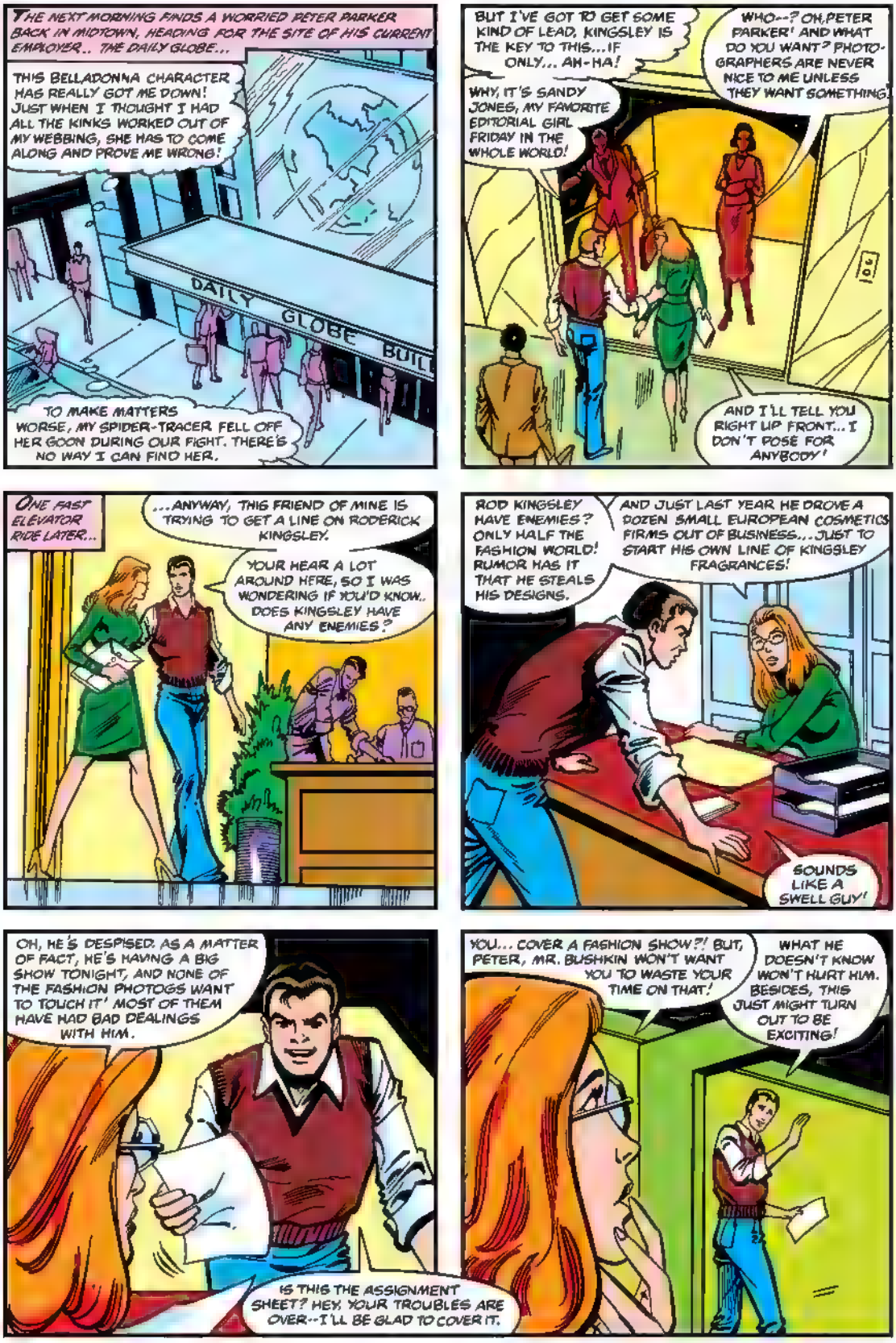
I DIDN'T THINK SO! AND NOW, FOR MY FINAL NUMBER--!
THAK
THANK YOU-- THANK YOU, BUT NO APPLAUSE! IT'LL GO TO MY HEAD, AND THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN A SWELLED HEAD UNDER A TIGHT MASK!

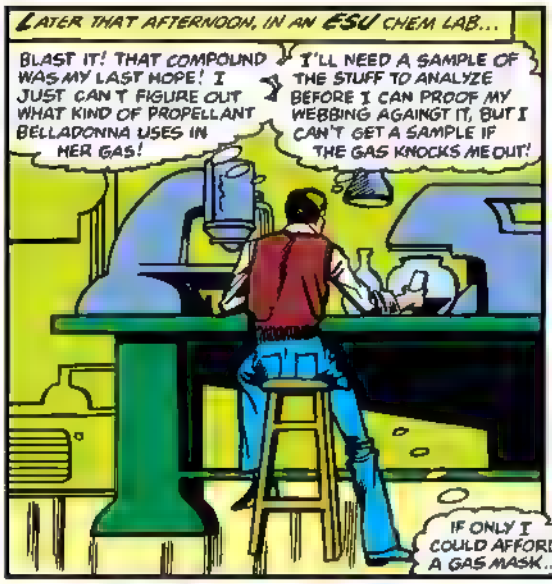

SPEAKING OF SWELLED HEADS, IT LOOKS LIKE MINE'S ALREADY TOO BIG! THE FIRST TWO JERKS I PUNCHED ARE BACK ON THEIR FEET!
THE LOVE TAPS I GAVE THEM SHOULD HAVE PUT THEM OUT FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR!

IT MUST BE THIS PERFUMY GAS... IT'S SLOWING ME DOWN. WELL, THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO REMEDY-- I'LL JUST LEAN INTO THE PUNCH A LITTLE MORE!
THAT'S ONE--

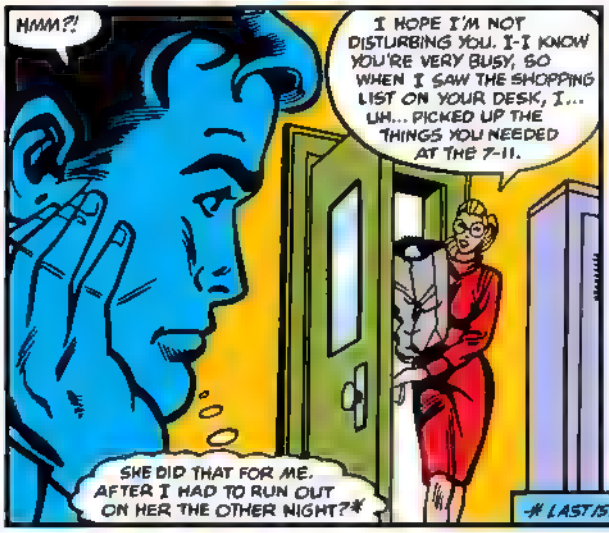

--AND THAT'S TWO! THIS TIME, I HOPE YOU HAVE THE DECENCY TO STAY DOWN WHEN I HIT YOU!
NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I'D PREFER TO TALK TO YOUR BOSS-LADY WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE.
I-I'M WARNING YOU, SPIDER-MAN-- BELLADONNA'S BUSINESS IS NONE OF YOUR AFFAIR!
AW, COME ON, BELLA-- YOU CALL THAT A THREAT? YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
HOW ABOUT: "ONE MORE STEP, AND I'LL CLICHE YOU TO DEATH!"
DO NOT MOCK ME, SPIDER-MAN! BELLADONNA CAN BE VERY DEADLY!
HEY! KOFF! THAT'S ONE ON ME, ALL RIGHT!
ALL THIS GAS IS MAKING ME WOOZY! I'D BETTER WEB HER UP BEFORE SHE PUTS ME TO SLEEP!
SORRY, SWEETHEART, BUT THE DAY A LAUREN BACALL LOOKALIKE GIVES ME TROUBLE IS THE DAY--! OH, NO!
YOUR GAS IS DISSOLVING MY WEBBING!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL IT'S DOING! THE ROOM'S STARTING TO SPIN ON ME! I'LL HAVE TO RUSH HER OR--!
AHK!
THE THIRD GOON! I'M SO DIZZY I DIDN'T EVEN GET A SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE FROM HIM!
COME, BOYS-- THIS NIGHT'S BEEN RUINED. I'LL HAVE TO RETHINK MY REVENGE!
YEAH, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN ANY MORE!
BITE... YOUR... TONGUE... JERK!

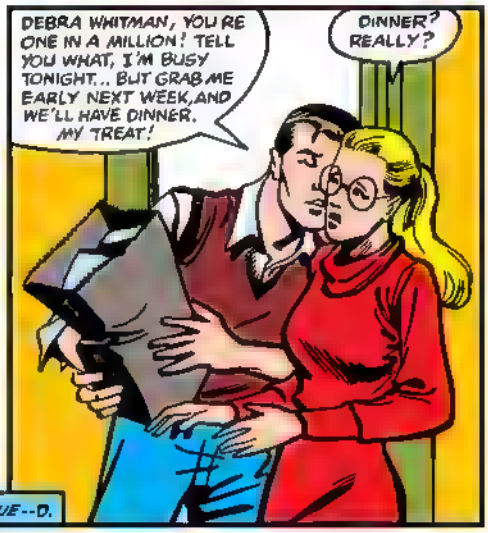

UNH! NOW I KNOW WHY THEY STOLE THE NEO-ATROPINE! IT'S DERIVED FROM THE BELLADONNA PLANT. SHE EVIDENTLY USES IT IN HER GAS. EITHER SHE DIDN'T HAVE A READY SOURCE FOR THE STUFF--
--OR SHE WAS JUST IMPATIENT! WHOOSH! FEELS LIKE THERE'RE BEES LIVING IN MY HEAD! I'D BETTER GET KINGSLEY OUT OF HERE--
--BEFORE WE BOTH PASS OUT!
NOW I KNOW I'M OUT OF IT' ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE THAT JUMP!
WITHIN MINUTES...
THAT'S BETTER! NEW YORK AIR NEVER SMELLED SO NICE!
YOU... YOU MASKED RUFFIAN! YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
WHAT?!
YOU HEARD ME! IF YOU HADN'T BUTTED IN, THAT HARPY WOULD'VE JUST STOLEN A FEW PETTY DESIGNS --WHICH I COULD HAVE TRACED-- AND BEEN ON HER WAY!
BUT NOW, MY STUDIO IS A SHAMBLES AND I WAS NEARLY KILLED! IT'S JUST LIKE THE DAILY BUGLE SAYS-- YOU'RE A MENACE TO SOCIETY!
BUGLE?! KINGSLEY, YOU JUST SAID THE SECRET WORD!
AND SO...
WHEN THAT LITTLE BLANKET DISSOLVES IN AN HOUR OR TWO, I'D SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING TO A MORE REPUTABLE PAPER...IF I WERE YOU!
AN HOUR OR TWO?! I'LL CATCH MY DEATH OF COLD!
YEAH, YEAH! THE WORLD SHOULD BE SO LUCKY!

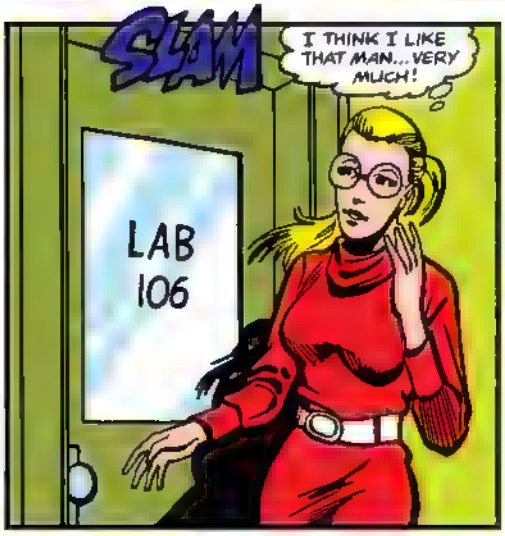

THE NEXT MORNING FINDS A WORRIED PETER PARKER BACK IN MIDTOWN, HEADING FOR THE SITE OF HIS CURRENT EMPLOYER.. THE DAILY GLOBE...
THIS BELLADONNA CHARACTER HAS REALLY GOT ME DOWN! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD ALL THE KINKS WORKED OUT OF MY WEBBING, SHE HAS TO COME ALONG AND PROVE ME WRONG!
DAILY GLOBE BUIL
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, MY SPIDER-TRACER FELL OFF HER GOON DURING OUR FIGHT. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FIND HER.
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET SOME KIND OF LEAD, KINGSLEY IS THE KEY TO THIS...IF ONLY... AH-HA!
WHO--? OH, PETER PARKER! AND WHAT DO YOU WANT? PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE NEVER NICE TO ME UNLESS THEY WANT SOMETHING!
WHY, IT'S SANDY JONES, MY FAVORITE EDITORIAL GIRL FRIDAY IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
AND I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT UP FRONT... I DON'T POSE FOR ANYBODY!
ONE FAST ELEVATOR RIDE LATER...
...ANYWAY, THIS FRIEND OF MINE IS TRYING TO GET A LINE ON RODERICK KINGSLEY.
YOUR HEAR A LOT AROUND HERE, SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D KNOW.. DOES KINGSLEY HAVE ANY ENEMIES?
ROD KINGSLEY HAVE ENEMIES? ONLY HALF THE FASHION WORLD! RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE STEALS HIS DESIGNS.
AND JUST LAST YEAR HE DROVE A DOZEN SMALL EUROPEAN COSMETICS FIRMS OUT OF BUSINESS... JUST TO START HIS OWN LINE OF KINGSLEY FRAGRANCES!
SOUNDS LIKE A SWELL GUY!
OH, HE'S DESPISED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE'S HAVING A BIG SHOW TONIGHT, AND NONE OF THE FASHION PHOTOGS WANT TO TOUCH IT! MOST OF THEM HAVE HAD BAD DEALINGS WITH HIM.
IS THIS THE ASSIGNMENT SHEET? HEY, YOUR TROUBLES ARE OVER--I'LL BE GLAD TO COVER IT.
YOU... COVER A FASHION SHOW?! BUT, PETER, MR. BUSHKIN WON'T WANT YOU TO WASTE YOUR TIME ON THAT!
WHAT HE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HIM. BESIDES, THIS JUST MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE EXCITING!


LATER THAT AFTERNOON, IN AN ESU CHEM LAB...
BLAST IT! THAT COMPOUND WAS MY LAST HOPE! I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT KIND OF PROPELLANT BELLADONNA USES IN HER GAS!
I'LL NEED A SAMPLE OF THE STUFF TO ANALYZE BEFORE I CAN PROOF MY WEBBING AGAINGT IT, BUT I CAN'T GET A SAMPLE IF THE GAS KNOCKS ME OUT!
IF ONLY I COULD AFFORD A GAS MASK...

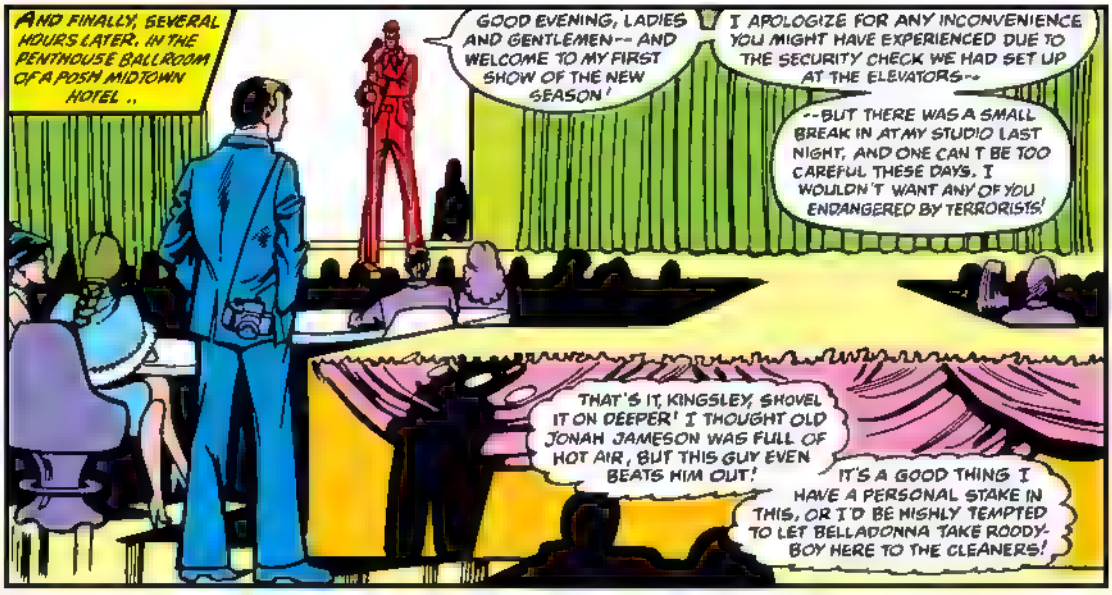
.. BUT PAY-DAY'S TWO DAYS AWAY. UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S A SURE BET THAT BELLADONNA WILL STRIKE TONIGHT!
BOY, I BET TONY STARK NEVER HAS PROBLEMS LIKE THIS!
PETER?


HMM?!
I HOPE I'M NOT DISTURBING YOU. I-I KNOW YOU'RE VERY BUSY, SO WHEN I SAW THE SHOPPING LIST ON YOUR DESK, I... UH... PICKED UP THE THINGS YOU NEEDED AT THE 7-11.
SHE DID THAT FOR ME. AFTER I HAD TO RUN OUT ON HER THE OTHER NIGHT?*
* LAST ISSUE--D.


DEBRA WHITMAN, YOU'RE ONE IN A MILLION! TELL YOU WHAT, I'M BUSY TONIGHT... BUT GRAB ME EARLY NEXT WEEK, AND WE'LL HAVE DINNER. MY TREAT!
DINNER? REALLY?

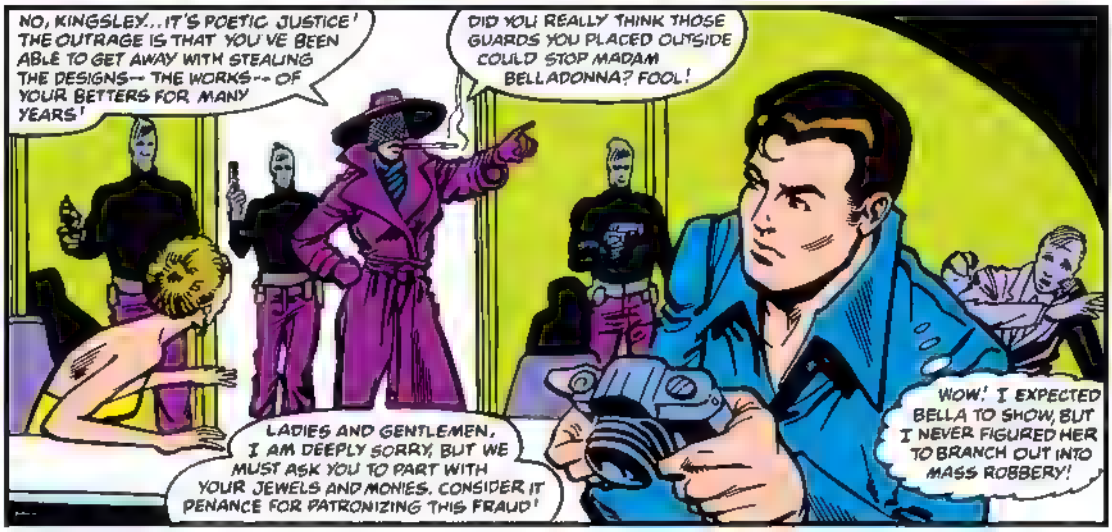

SLAM
I THINK I LIKE THAT MAN... VERY MUCH!
LAB 106

WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING! YEUCCH! WOULDN'T YOU KNOW THAT THE REMEDY FOR BELLADONNA POISONING IS VINEGAR! I JUST HOPE IT'LL WORK AS A PRE-VENTATIVE TO THE LADY'S GAS.
I'D HATE TO THINK THAT I'M REACTIVATING MY ULCER FOR NOTHING!

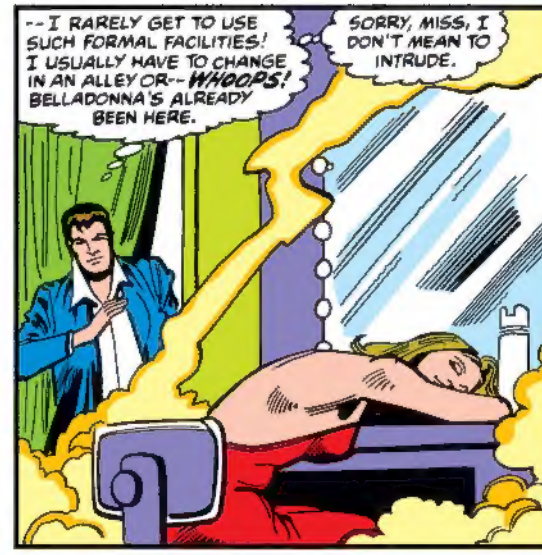

AND FINALLY, SEVERAL HOURS LATER. IN THE PENTHOUSE BALLROOM OF A POSH MIDTOWN HOTEL ..
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- AND WELCOME TO MY FIRST SHOW OF THE NEW SEASON!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE YOU MIGHT HAVE EXPERIENCED DUE TO THE SECURITY CHECK WE HAD SET UP AT THE ELEVATORS--
--BUT THERE WAS A SMALL BREAK IN AT MY STUDIO LAST NIGHT, AND ONE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL THESE DAYS. I WOULDN'T WANT ANY OF YOU ENDANGERED BY TERRORISTS!
THAT'S IT, KINGSLEY, SHOVEL IT ON DEEPER! I THOUGHT OLD JONAH JAMESON WAS FULL OF HOT AIR, BUT THIS GUY EVEN BEATS HIM OUT!
IT'S A GOOD THING I HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS, OR I'D BE HIGHLY TEMPTED TO LET BELLADONNA TAKE ROODY-BOY HERE TO THE CLEANERS!

AND SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, I GIVE YOU--
--THE RODERICK KINGSLEY LOOK FOR FALL!
MARIO... THE CURTAIN!

WHAT?! BURLAP BAGS?!? OH, GHOD--NO! THIS... THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!
HA HA HA HA


NO, KINGSLEY... IT'S POETIC JUSTICE! THE OUTRAGE IS THAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH STEALING THE DESIGNS-- THE WORKS-- OF YOUR BETTERS FOR MANY YEARS!
DID YOU REALLY THINK THOSE GUARDS YOU PLACED OUTSIDE COULD STOP MADAM BELLADONNA? FOOL!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM DEEPLY SORRY, BUT WE MUST ASK YOU TO PART WITH YOUR JEWELS AND MONIES. CONSIDER IT PENANCE FOR PATRONIZING THIS FRAUD!
WOW! I EXPECTED BELLA TO SHOW, BUT I NEVER FIGURED HER TO BRANCH OUT INTO MASS ROBBERY!

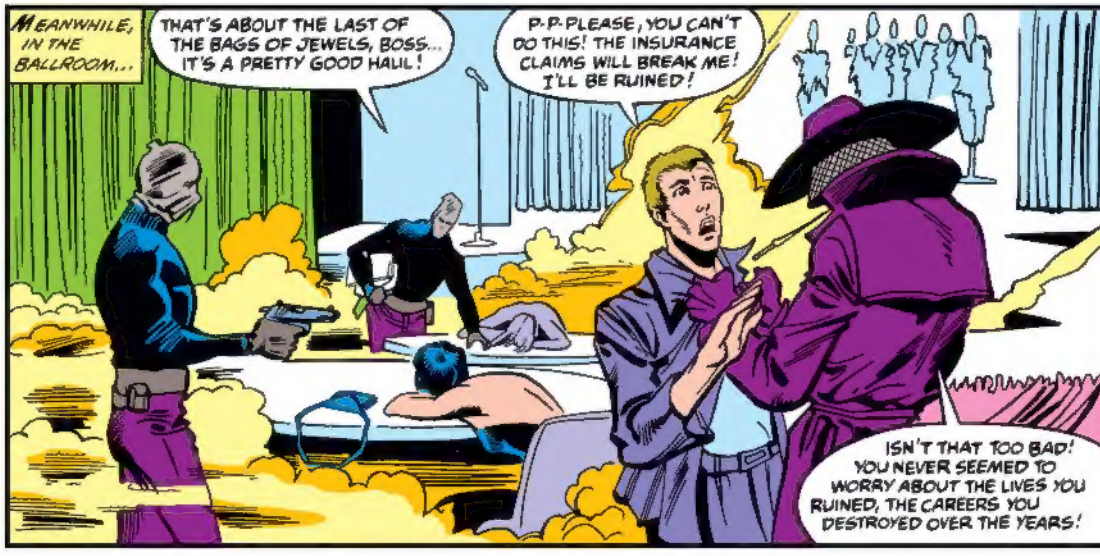
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! WHY DOESN'T SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING?!
GIVE ME A CHANCE, LADY.
HMM, DRESSING ROOMS SHOULD BE BACK THIS WAY. THAT'LL BE A SWITCH--


--I RARELY GET TO USE SUCH FORMAL FACILITIES! I USUALLY HAVE TO CHANGE IN AN ALLEY OR--WHOOPS! BELLADONNA'S ALREADY BEEN HERE.
SORRY, MISS, I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE.

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE GASSED... I'VE NEVER DONE THIS IN FRONT OF A LADY BEFORE.
UH-OH... SPEAKING OF GAS, I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE FUZZY AROUND THE EDGES!

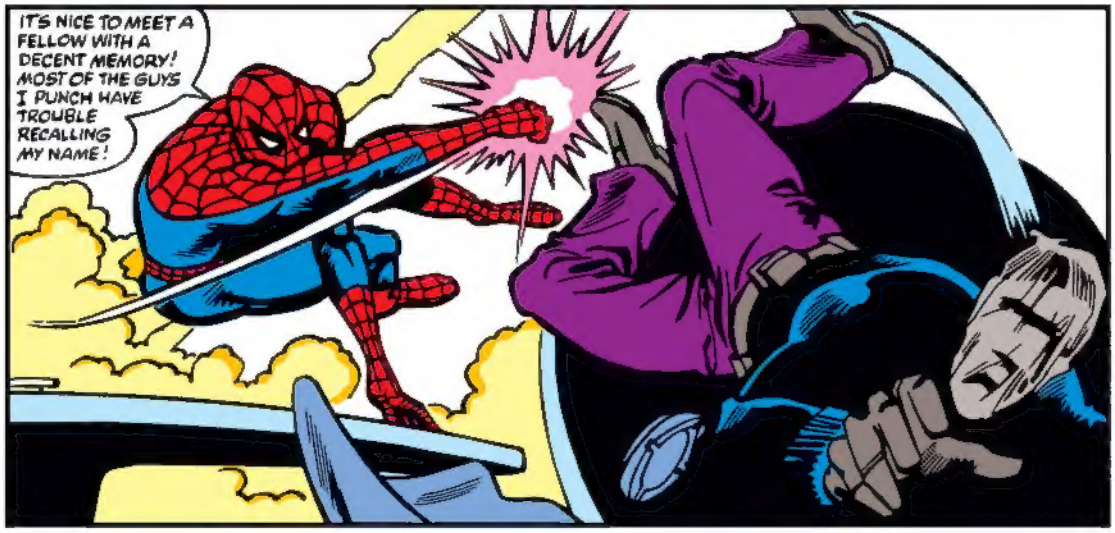
LOOKS LIKE THE VINEGAR I CHUGGED IS ONLY GOING TO BE PARTIALLY EFFECTIVE. I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES...
...A WEB-FILTER UNDER MY MASK OUGHT TO WARD OFF SOME OF THE GAS.

OF COURSE, IF I'M OUT IN THE GAS FOR TOO LONG, THE WEB-FILTER WILL START TO BREAK DOWN AND--YEESH! I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT.

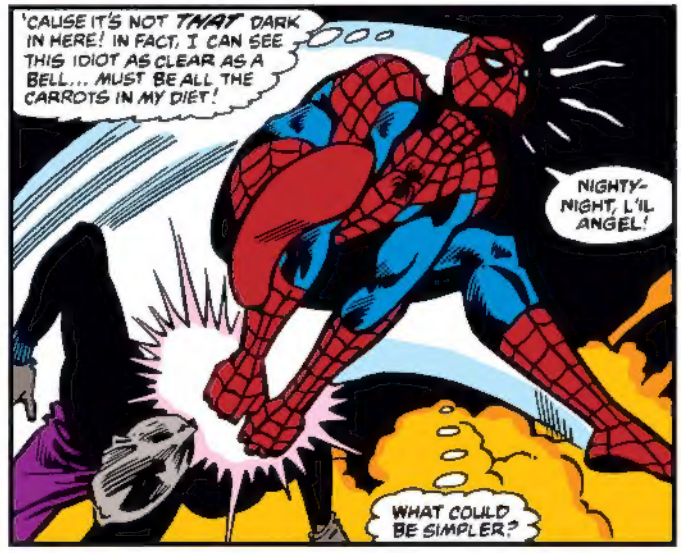

MEANWHILE, IN THE BALLROOM...
THAT'S ABOUT THE LAST OF THE BAGS OF JEWELS, BOSS... IT'S A PRETTY GOOD HAUL!
P-P-PLEASE, YOU CAN'T DO THIS! THE INSURANCE CLAIMS WILL BREAK ME! I'LL BE RUINED!
ISN'T THAT TOO BAD! YOU NEVER SEEMED TO WORRY ABOUT THE LIVES YOU RUINED, THE CAREERS YOU DESTROYED OVER THE YEARS!

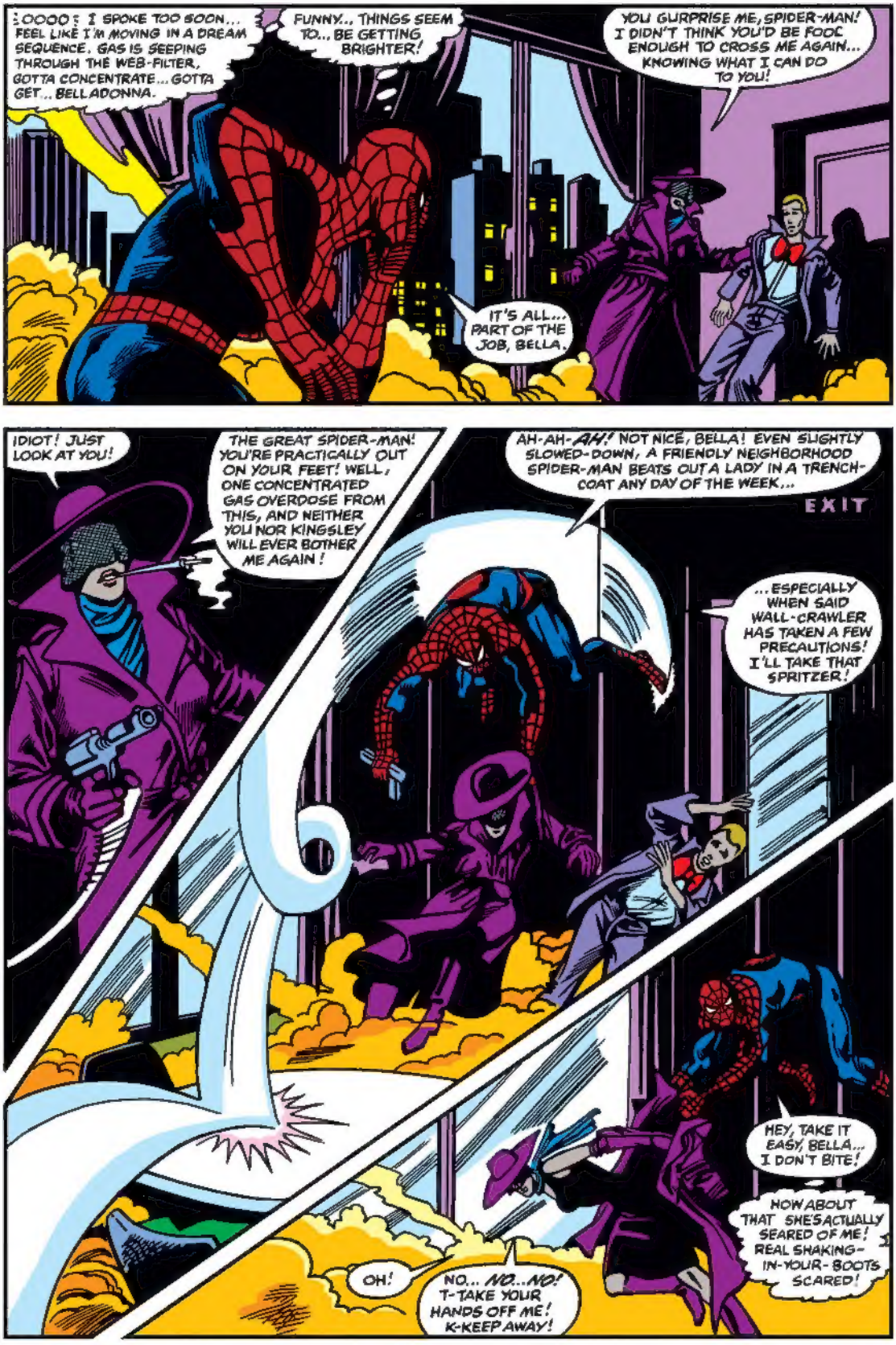
JEEZ, WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO MAKE A SPEECH? WHY CAN'T WE JUST--
GUESS WHO?
!WHUUP!
THOW

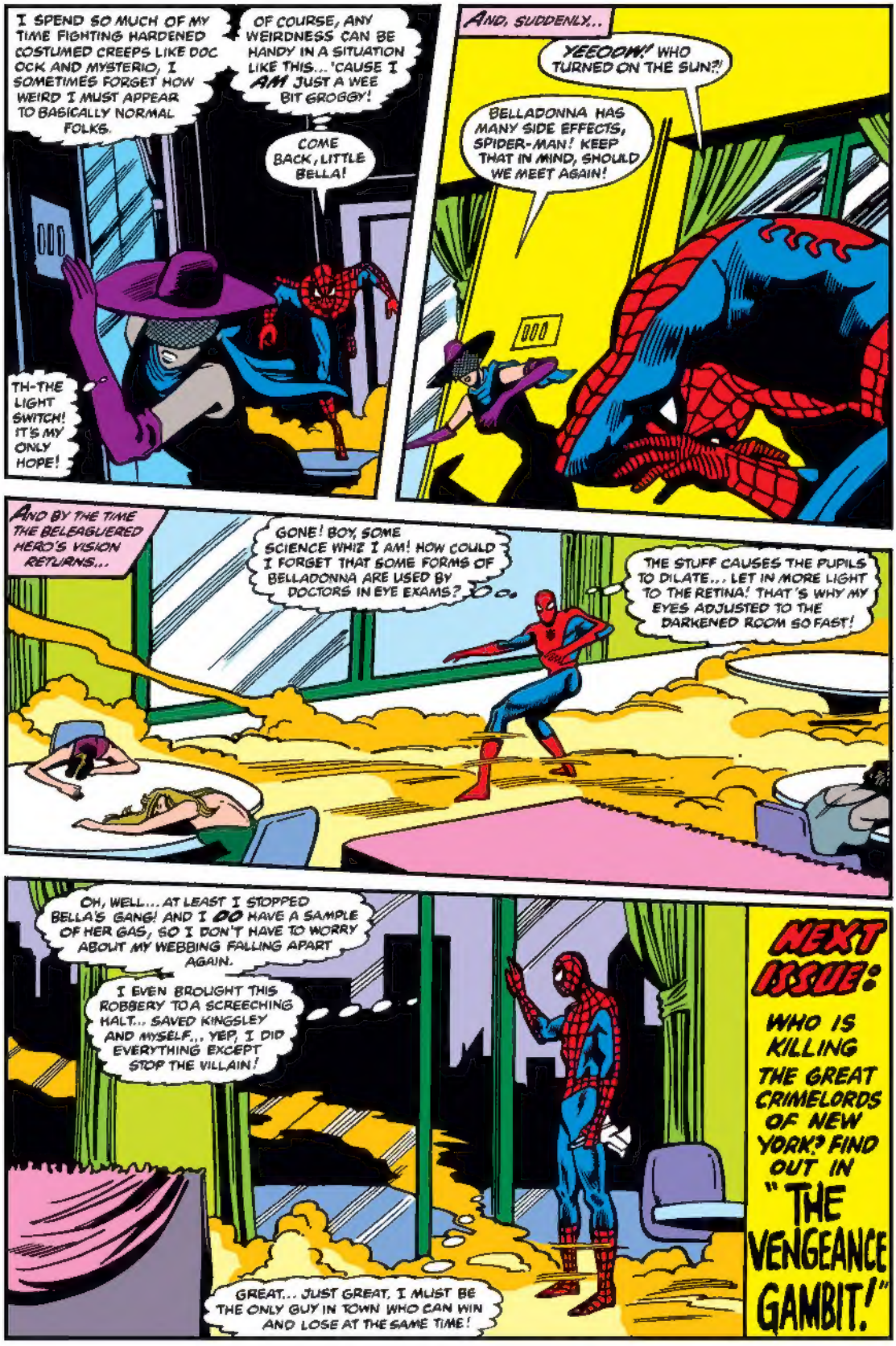
WHAT?! IT'S SPIDER-MAN AGAIN!
AW, YOU REMEMBERED!


IT'S NICE TO MEET A FELLOW WITH A DECENT MEMORY! MOST OF THE GUYS I PUNCH HAVE TROUBLE RECALLING MY NAME!

TRICKY! SOME BRIGHT BOY THOUGHT OF TURNING THE LIGHTS OFF!
TOO BAD IT WON'T DO THEM ANY GOOD!


'CAUSE IT'S NOT THAT DARK IN HERE! IN FACT, I CAN SEE THIS IDIOT AS CLEAR AS A BELL... MUST BE ALL THE CARROTS IN MY DIET!
NIGHTY-NIGHT, L'IL ANGEL!
WHAT COULD BE SIMPLER?


:OOOO: I SPOKE TOO SOON... FEEL LIKE I'M MOVING IN A DREAM SEQUENCE. GAS IS SEEPING THROUGH THE WEB-FILTER, GOTTA CONCENTRATE... GOTTA GET... BELLADONNA.
FUNNY... THINGS SEEM TO... BE GETTING BRIGHTER!
YOU SURPRISE ME, SPIDER-MAN! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE FOOL ENOUGH TO CROSS ME AGAIN... KNOWING WHAT I CAN DO TO YOU!
IT'S ALL... PART OF THE JOB, BELLA.
IDIOT! JUST LOOK AT YOU!
THE GREAT SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE PRACTICALLY OUT ON YOUR FEET! WELL, ONE CONCENTRATED GAS OVERDOSE FROM THIS, AND NEITHER YOU NOR KINGSLEY WILL EVER BOTHER ME AGAIN!
AH-AH-AH! NOT NICE, BELLA! EVEN SLIGHTLY SLOWED-DOWN, A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN BEATS OUT A LADY IN A TRENCH-COAT ANY DAY OF THE WEEK...
EXIT
...ESPECIALLY WHEN SAID WALL-CRAWLER HAS TAKEN A FEW PRECAUTIONS! I'LL TAKE THAT SPRITZER!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY, BELLA... I DON'T BITE!
HOW ABOUT THAT SHE'S ACTUALLY SCARED OF ME! REAL SHAKING-IN-YOUR-BOOTS SCARED!
OH!
NO... NO... NO! T-TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME! K-KEEP AWAY!


I SPEND SO MUCH OF MY TIME FIGHTING HARDENED COSTUMED CREEPS LIKE DOC OCK AND MYSTERIO, I SOMETIMES FORGET HOW WEIRD I MUST APPEAR TO BASICALLY NORMAL FOLKS.
OF COURSE, ANY WEIRDNESS CAN BE HANDY IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS... 'CAUSE I AM JUST A WEE BIT GROGGY!
COME BACK, LITTLE BELLA!
TH-THE LIGHT SWITCH! IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!
AND, SUDDENLY...
YEEOOW! WHO TURNED ON THE SUN?!
BELLADONNA HAS MANY SIDE EFFECTS, SPIDER-MAN! KEEP THAT IN MIND, SHOULD WE MEET AGAIN!
AND BY THE TIME THE BELEAGUERED HERO'S VISION RETURNS...
GONE! BOY, SOME SCIENCE WHIZ I AM! HOW COULD I FORGET THAT SOME FORMS OF BELLADONNA ARE USED BY DOCTORS IN EYE EXAMS?
THE STUFF CAUSES THE PUPILS TO DILATE... LET IN MORE LIGHT TO THE RETINA! THAT'S WHY MY EYES ADJUSTED TO THE DARKENED ROOM SO FAST!
OH, WELL... AT LEAST I STOPPED BELLA'S GANG! AND I DO HAVE A SAMPLE OF HER GAS, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY WEBBING FALLING APART AGAIN.
I EVEN BROUGHT THIS ROBBERY TO A SCREECHING HALT... SAVED KINGSLEY AND MYSELF... YEP, I DID EVERYTHING EXCEPT STOP THE VILLAIN!
GREAT... JUST GREAT, I MUST BE THE ONLY GUY IN TOWN WHO CAN WIN AND LOSE AT THE SAME TIME!
NEXT ISSUE:
WHO IS KILLING THE GREAT CRIMELORDS OF NEW YORK? FIND OUT IN "THE VENGEANCE GAMBIT!"